

**CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**FINAL MEETING NOTES**

**March 20, 2003**

**9:30 am – 4:00 pm**

**Channel Islands National Park, Auditorium  
1901 Spinnaker Drive • Ventura, CA**

*The following are meeting notes from the March 20, 2003 meeting of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC). These notes are posted on the CINMS web site at: [www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/sac/sacmin.html](http://www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/sac/sacmin.html). Additionally, audio tape recordings of the SAC meeting are available upon request; contact the SAC Coordinator at 805-884-1464.*

Attending:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**

Member Mark Helvey  
Alternate Christina Fahy

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Alternate Kate Faulkner

**MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE**

Member Drew Mayerson

**US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

Member Alex Stone

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

Member Marija Vojkovich  
Alternate John Ugoretz

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

**TOURISM**

Alternate Monica Baker

**RECREATION**

Member Jim Brye  
Alternate Eric Kett

**BUSINESS**

Member Michael Hanrahan  
Alternate Darren Caesar

**FISHING**

Member Harry Liqournik  
Alternate1 Eric Hooper

**EDUCATION**

Member Craig Taylor  
Alternate Kathy deWet-Oleson

**RESEARCH**

Alternate Dr. Dan Brumbaugh

**PUBLIC AT-LARGE**

Member Robert Duncan  
Alternate Avie Guerra

**PUBLIC AT-LARGE**

Member Dr. Matthew Cahn  
Alternate Roberta Cordero

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary**  
Mike Murray, Advisory Council Coordinator

Absent:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Member Acting Superintendent  
Alternate Gary Davis

**US COAST GUARD**

Member J. Wade Russell  
Alternate Troy Rentz

**MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE**

Alternate Fred Piltz, Ph.D.

**US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

Alternate Walter Schobel

**CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY**

Member Brian Baird  
Alternate Melissa Miller-Henson

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

Member Rebecca Roth  
Alternate Gary Timm

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

Member Dianne Meester  
Alternate Jackie Campbell

**COUNTY OF VENTURA**

Member Lyn Krieger  
Alternate Jack Peveler

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

**TOURISM**

Member Jeanette Webber [SAC Secretary]

**FISHING**

Alternate2 Merit McCrea

**CONSERVATION**

Member Linda Krop  
Alternate Greg Helms

**RESEARCH**

Member Dr. Robert Warner

**PUBLIC AT-LARGE**

Member Jon Clark [SAC Vice Chair]  
Alternate Richard Holt

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary**

Chris Mobley, Manager

**Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**

Bill Douros, Sanctuary Superintendent  
Alternate: Sean Morton, Management Plan Coordinator

**Gulf of the Farallones & Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries**

Maria Brown, GFNMS Acting Manager  
Dan Howard, CBNMS Acting Manager

## Attendance

At roll call, 13 of the 20 voting seats were represented. Additionally, there were 4 early departures. A total of 21 SAC representatives were in attendance for the day (10 members, 10 alternates, 1 non-voting). Public attendance peaked at about 7 individuals.

## Administrative Business and Announcements

Matt Cahn reviewed the meeting objectives:

- Receive an update on the implementation of state marine reserves and the process to consider federal marine reserves (Sean)
- Hear from the Clean Boating Network and consider how their work might be applicable to boating practices at the Sanctuary
- Have some fun by viewing highlights from the JASON XIV expedition and meeting some of the star student participants – the Channel Islands Argonauts
- Discuss how an educational enforcement program, Marine Watch, could be developed for the Sanctuary
- Consider ideas for improvement of SAC operations (Jon Clark and Eric Kett)

Mike Murray explained that he was sitting in as Acting Sanctuary Manager while Chris Mobley is in Washington, D.C. attending a mandatory annual Coastal Program Managers Meeting and visiting with congressional representatives on Capital Hill. Mike also explained that Sean Hastings was serving as acting Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator during the meeting.

Mike thanked Channel Islands National Park for providing the meeting location, and introduced Kate Faulkner, Channel Islands National Park Chief of Resource Management, who was sitting in for Gary Davis as the National Park Service SAC member.

### ***New SAC Representatives***

Matt Cahn introduced new SAC members:

- Tourism alternate Monica Baker thanked the SAC and staff for the opportunity to serve as a SAC alternate. Monica explained that she is a California native who has worked for Islands Packers for the past two and a half years, spending five days per week on the water. She added that she really enjoys working with students, and also works with domestic and international tourists, enabling her to bring a fresh perspective to the SAC.
- Business alternate Darren Caesar introduced himself as the President of Talbot/Caesar & Seider Insurance Services. Darren explained that this insurance company handles workers compensation and general liability and that they insure many commercial fishermen. He added that he has a 100 ton license from the United States Coast Guard.
- California Department of Fish and Game member Marija Vojkovich introduced herself as a Manager within the Department's Marine Region who is responsible for all Southern California regional activities that take place in the offshore ecosystem including fishing. Marija added that she was born and raised on Catalina Island and thanked the SAC and staff for the opportunity to participate.

### ***Meeting Notes***

Draft meeting notes from the January 17, 2003 SAC meeting were adopted by the Council.

### ***Manager's Report***

Mike Murray highlighted a few items from the Manager's Report (mailed to SAC members on March 11<sup>th</sup>): the *R/V Shearwater* is still in Seattle being outfitted and will be engaged in six weeks of seabird research at the islands upon its arrival, the *Shearwater* will be tied up next to the *Rachel G* in the Santa Barbara Harbor, Jason XIV was a success and some of the local Channel Islands Argonauts will attend the meeting at a later point, the Marine Reserves Monitoring Workshop was held this past weekend, the Marine Wildlife Viewing Workshop was held on February 27<sup>th</sup> and showcased a handbook about responsible wildlife viewing, there is an adult education course about CINMS coming up at Santa Barbara City College, and the Channel Islands National Park is helping the Sanctuary implement the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps program.

### ***Council Members Announcements***

Bob Duncan stated that it was an honor to have the Jason XIV program at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum and quite a phenomenon to have Bob Ballard working with students. He thanked NOAA for helping provide those opportunities.

John Ugoretz informed the SAC that the CA Dept. of Fish and Game's *R/V Garibaldi* (docked in Ventura Harbor) is not operational yet but that it will be able to conduct research sometime within the next two months.

Eric Kett said that the last two-and-a-half months have been action packed and educational due to the many Sanctuary-related events provided. Eric also mentioned that the Bacara Resort is hosting an upcoming 3-D show in support of the University of California, Santa Barbara, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management. Much of the footage will focus on the Channel Islands. For more information contact Eric.

Avie Guerra introduced herself as a community activist and mentioned two activities she is currently involved with: 1) a consortium in higher education with a goal of making Cal. State University, Channel Islands more relevant to the community and focused on the ocean, and 2) an upcoming Ventura County Leadership Workshop. For more information on these activities, contact Avie.

Kate Faulkner mentioned that the Los Angeles PBS radio station KCET will air a half-hour program on Channel Islands National Park rat eradication on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 pm.

Nancy Berenson (Sanctuary staff) announced the upcoming April recruitment period for the SAC's Conservation alternate seat. She added that August is the only one other scheduled recruitment period for the SAC this year. Nancy asked that SAC members considering vacating their seats inform her prior to one of the scheduled recruitment periods since the recruitment process is very costly.

Matt Cahn informed the SAC that both he and former SAC Chair Diane Meester participated in the SAC Coordinator's Meeting held in Santa Barbara (February 19 - 20). Matt summed up the meeting's first day as focusing on site-specific issues for each Sanctuary, followed by a second day discussion of National Marine Sanctuary Program priorities. He added that the National Program may want input from the various SACs regarding these priorities. Matt concluded by noting that the Channel Islands SAC is very lucky to have the CINMS staff working with them based on what he learned about other SACs at the SAC Coordinator's Meeting.

## **Marine Reserves Update**

### *Federal Marine Reserves (Sean Hastings)*

Sean noted that staff provided (in an email notice and in the meeting packet) a letter from NMSP Director Dan Basta regarding the Federal marine reserves process to complement the recent State action on MPAs at the Channel Islands. Sean thanked the SAC for sending a letter to Dan Basta regarding consideration of combining the Federal marine reserves process with the process to consider alternative Sanctuary boundaries. He clarified that CINMS will keep the marine reserves process separate from the environmental review process on boundaries, and that there will be many opportunities for public input during the marine reserves process. Sean also noted that CINMS needs close coordination with its State partner (CDFG), NOAA Fisheries, and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC).

Sean presented the SAC with an overhead outlining the draft proposed activities and timeline for the Federal marine reserves process. Major steps in the process will include: preparing a notice of intent for the Federal Register, hosting public scoping sessions, mailing consultation letters, developing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), receiving and addressing public comments, and releasing a Final Environmental Impact Statement. Sean also explained a few other important details: in order to implement marine reserves CINMS must change its designation document, and CINMS will provide the PFMC with an opportunity to assist with developing the relevant fisheries regulations. Sean added that the PFMC typically works with NOAA Fisheries under the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, but in this case would work with the NMSP under the National Marine Sanctuary Act and CINMS regulations. While Sean explained that this is a new experience on the West Coast, he noted that there have been similar experiences elsewhere on a National Level.

Sean asked the SAC to consider what roles they might play during: 1) public scoping for the Federal marine reserve process, 2) in drafting the DEIS, and 3) in working with the PFMC on regulations.

Drew Mayerson asked how CINMS could change its designation document at this early stage. Sean explained that CINMS is not changing its designation document now, but rather informing its partners that it may be changing its designation document at the end of the process. Including this information in consultation letters allow partners to raise questions that CINMS can then address in the DEIS.

Drew asked if there would be a separate review of the designation document and the DEIS. Sean responded that these are separate processes, but related.

Darren Caesar asked what the impetus is for developing a DEIS. Sean provided some background to Darren, explaining that there had been a four-year process to consider marine reserves in the Channel Islands. Now the State has taken action in the State water portion of the Sanctuary [to 3 nautical miles], but that four-year process looked at applying marine reserves as a tool Sanctuary-wide. Also, the shared CINMS-CDFG preferred option for marine reserves extended to 6 nautical miles. In answer to Darren's question Sean stated that this upcoming environmental review process for Federal marine reserves is a requirement. He added that since there will be new regulations for Federal marine reserves, CINMS needs additional public input.

Darren asked if CINMS is bound to follow the State action. Sean responded that CINMS is not, adding that the process is NOAA-led but CINMS is subject to statutory consultation requirements, and is interested in working with partners. Sean also clarified that as in the State process the Federal process will consider a full range of alternatives including a no action alternative.

Eric Kett asked Sean to expand on the meaning of the phrase "management tool." Sean explained that reserves are a tool, a type of zonation that sanctuaries use to protect ecosystems and separate incompatible uses. Additionally, Sean stated that marine reserves have potential for fisheries management applications.

Eric Hooper asked whether marine reserves, as a tool, can protect the ecosystem from anything other than fishing. Sean stated that marine reserves are not a "silver bullet" but a tool for managing those things that we can impact, such as human activities. Sean noted that there are other tools for dealing with natural perturbation.

Matt Cahn suggested that the public process be the forum in which to discuss marine reserves so that the SAC may keep to its agenda.

Eric Hooper asked who the decision on marine reserves ultimately lies with. Sean responded that ultimately that would lie with the Secretary of Commerce.

Drew Mayerson asked who holds the "hammer?" Sean stated that while CINMS would provide the PFMC an opportunity to draft fishing regulations, CINMS cannot require them to do so. He added that the Sanctuary provides the National Marine Sanctuary Act goals and objectives, and the data and analysis of the proposed action. CINMS will ask its partners how long they need to work through the process, beyond the statutory requirements. However, Sean concluded that while the idea is to develop a model process [with Sanctuary partners] the ultimate decision lies with NOAA administrators.

Matt Cahn suggested that the SAC make a decision regarding its involvement in this process at the May meeting. Prior to that decision SAC members are to look at information regarding the similar processes at Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Matt also suggested that like the PFMC, the SAC consider pairing its next meeting with a scoping session.

Michael Hanrahan asked when it would be best to ask constituents to participate. Sean answered that scoping would be conducted in May and June with the details to be determined by April, adding that it takes two to four weeks to get the notice of intent cleared and into the Federal Register.

SAC members then discussed that the next SAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup> and debated as to whether their constituents, including the public-at-large, would attend a Friday evening scoping session. Eric Hooper noted that Friday evenings are ideal for the commercial fishing constituency since they are subject to weekend closures. Sean Hastings reminded the SAC that this particular session would not be the only public scoping session opportunity. Eric Kett offered that the recreational fishing constituency is not as concerned about marine reserves in the Federal portion of the Sanctuary so targeting Eric Hooper's constituency would be better.

The SAC voted unanimously to hold a public scoping session following the next SAC meeting.

Sean Hastings stated that the SAC can provide input on their role in the process by the May meeting and that staff will provide background information on other case study processes before the next meeting.

#### *State Marine Reserves (John Ugoretz)*

John stated that the CA Office of Administrative Law approved the State marine reserves on March 10, to be followed by a 30-day waiting period resulting in an official implementation date of April 9<sup>th</sup>. John also acknowledged a pending lawsuit filed by recreational and commercial fishing groups, and a recent hearing regarding a temporary restraining order, concerning State marine reserves. John said if the Judge issues a temporary restraining order no marine reserve regulations will be enforced until the conclusion of the lawsuit.

#### *Additional Questions and Comments*

Public question: Sandy Delano (Ventura Port District) asked how funding for the Department of Defense is likely to affect environmental issues, including the Federal marine reserves process. Sean Hastings responded that the Sanctuary budget has already been approved for fiscal year 2003, adding that the State/Federal partnership is working to make sure that the reserves are enforced, including through development of a memorandum of understanding, or MOU. For example, Sean noted that the State has boats and patrolmen while the Sanctuary has money to buy fuel, and has a plane that can be used in enforcement operations. Sean concluded by saying that when there is limited staffing and funding it is most efficient for entities to work together.

Eric Hooper stated that CDFG is not hiring new wardens but redirecting existing assets to enforcing the boundaries of marine reserves, therefore taking time and staff away from elsewhere. Marija Vojkovich responded that enforcement is an issue but the focus of the Marine Region is to deploy staff and equipment in the most efficient manner, while they are looking at ways to also maximize existing Channel Islands National Park and CINMS staff. She added that with new technology they can cover more area than they could in the past.

Eric Hooper then asked whether the Sanctuary's new vessel would assist in enforcement. Sean Hastings answered stating that its primary purpose would be to conduct research, although he reminded the SAC that the Sanctuary also has a plane.

Matt Cahn suggested that the SAC request a formal report on enforcement at a future meeting.

## **Working Group and Ad-Hoc Group Reports**

### ***Sanctuary Education Team or SET (Craig Taylor)***

Craig provided an overhead of a matrix representing the appropriateness of various marine reserves science educational materials and products, coupled with various distribution methods, for various categories of user groups. A copy of the overhead was provided to SAC members at the meeting. The SET ranked materials and products, and distribution methods along a 1 to 5 scale, with 5 being the highest rank and 0 indicating that the given selection is not applicable for that particular user group category. Craig walked the SAC through the top priority material or product for each user group.

Several SAC members indicated that the 0, or not applicable, ranking affected the average rank number for materials and products, and for distribution methods.

Mike Murray stated his appreciation for the SET developing this matrix and for all of the meetings that went into its development. He added that CINMS doesn't always know what to print, how much to print, or how to distribute printed information so this matrix is very helpful.

Craig stated that the SET would like the SAC to recognize this work and get it moving up the pipeline.

Jim Brye thanked Craig for this great analysis and suggested that marine businesses (such as chandleries, tackle shops, dive shops and other ocean-dependant businesses) be added as a user group for outreach materials.

Drew Mayerson acknowledged that this is a wonderful tool and suggested that errors in which the priority rank numbers had been reversed be corrected before the SAC accept the matrix, and that different methods of analysis, such as median numbers, be added.

Sean Hastings asked whether this matrix covered general information about marine reserves, or specifically the science of marine reserves. Craig responded that the SET determined that people will not understand why marine reserves are important unless they understand the science behind them.

The SAC unanimously passed a motion to approve the SET matrix.

### ***Ad-Hoc Enforcement Group (Robert Duncan)***

As suggested by Matt Cahn, Bob Duncan delayed his presentation so that the Clean Boating Practices presentation could proceed at its scheduled time.

## **Presentation: Clean Boating Practices (Joel Hanson)**

Joel Hanson introduced himself as the Coordinator for Boater Education for the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation (the non-profit arm of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission). His presentation was based on a series of overheads that he also provided as a handout to each SAC member. Additionally, Joel passed out a Southern California Boaters Guide and information packet to each SAC member, and provided CINMS staff with two copies of a 20 minute outreach video about clean boating entitled, "Our Playground, Their World." He explained that he typically provides outreach presentations to yacht clubs, seminars, boat shows, and at dock walker training events. Through the dock walkers program volunteers walk along docks and provide information and free boating packets that include a bilge pad, charts

and boating-related coupons, to interested boaters (a sample packet was provided to CINMS staff). Joel added that they try to keep their messages close to the time and point of the boating action, during which the information about clean boating is needed.

Joel explained that other Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation Boater Education projects include: working with Earth's911.com (a web site that lists available environmental services by zip code) to include information about Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission/Foundation programs, providing technical assistance to marinas and boatyards, providing bilge pad exchange and recycling services, recognizing and awarding marinas that follow suggested best management practices (BMPs), and an in-water hull cleaner certification program. Joel noted that while many of these programs are land-based or marina-based, the information and products that they provide is useful offshore.

Bob Duncan asked how the dock walker program works. Joel explained that they secure prior approval of marina operators before engaging in dock walking. He added that all dock walkers are boaters themselves and that they deal with recreational boaters (rather than commercial boaters) who tend to be receptive, especially considering that they get a free packet of information.

Eric Kett stated that he appreciated the boating guide, but found it difficult to get a bilge pad (and bilge pad exchange program) that works for large recreational as well as commercial boats. Joel responded that his program focuses on boats that can use a simple bilge pad, and that the bilge exchange program is not designed to handle larger vessels.

Eric Hooper asked who funds the bilge pad exchange program. Joel stated that this program is funded by the CA Waste Management Program.

## **Working Group and Ad-Hoc Group Reports, continued**

### ***Ad-Hoc Enforcement Group (Robert Duncan)***

Bob noted that this group is focused on the Sanctuary Marine Watch Program and cannot do much until MOUs between the various agencies (CDFG, Channel Islands National Park, and CINMS) are completed. He added that the US Coast Guard is no longer directly involved, although its representatives still attend meetings and provide input.

Matt Cahn asked whether the enforcement group is a SAC working group or a subcommittee. Sean Hastings clarified that a subcommittee is composed solely of SAC members, while a working group includes non-members of the SAC. In this case, Sean said we want to bring in people from the outside. The SAC decided to delay a decision on the Ad-Hoc Enforcement Group's status.

### ***Conservation Working Group***

No one was present from this group, but SAC members noted that today's meeting packet included a report from Linda Krop.

Eric Kett stated that some issues this group dealt with at their last meeting may warrant an agenda item at the next SAC meeting.

### ***New working group proposal: Business Working Group (Michael Hanrahan and Eric Kett)***

Michael Hanrahan requested that the SAC adopt a formal SAC Business Working Group whose mission would focus on the following: 1) examining how businesses are affected by issues relating to the Sanctuary, 2) examining whether businesses rely on the health of resources, 3) developing potential marketing appeal



for the Sanctuary and activities that occur within Sanctuary waters. The group will meet on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> (location to be announced) in Carpinteria at 6 pm. Michael strongly encouraged further participation from SAC members, specifically from tourism and fishing working groups. Below is the text that Michael read regarding the formation of a Business Working Group

SAC Business Working Group:

**Core Goal: To encourage and achieve stronger communication between the Sanctuary management and the business community which utilizes and benefits from the Sanctuary waters.**

- Steps we will take to reach this goal in the establishment of a SAC Business Working Group for the Oxnard, Ventura, Carpinteria, and Santa Barbara communities:
  1. Provide our business constituency with important information regarding the Sanctuary and its management from "the horses mouth" (SAC Business Rep). Greater clarity and understanding of the workings in and around the Sanctuary.
  2. Provide the neutral forum where our business constituency can express their business concerns to the individual who represents your interests on the SAC and who has a direct line to the Sanctuary management. Is your business affected by issues relating to the Sanctuary? Does your business affect the Sanctuary or rely on its resources?
  3. Develop the potential for development of marketing opportunities for the Sanctuary and, subsequently, activities that occur within Sanctuary waters. How would marketing the Sanctuary help your business?
- Proposed Dates for First Meeting: May 6th at 6:00pm in Carpinteria.
- Agenda for First Meeting:
  1. Introduce SAC Business Rep and the concept of the SAC
  2. Brief orientation to the Sanctuary
  3. Report on recent SAC meeting and details of business

Drew Mayerson asked who has participated so far in this group. Michael responded that the group has thus far been a subcommittee to determine if there is a need for a working group, and has consisted of himself, Eric Kett and Mike Murray. They have held two meetings to date. Interested individuals should email Michael Hanrahan at [michael@ocean.com](mailto:michael@ocean.com).

Mike Murray thanked and acknowledged Michael and Eric for working on this in the spirit of being the best SAC members they can be and exerting extra effort.

**Video Presentation: Jason XIV Expedition at the Channel Islands** (Yvonne Menard and Carol Peterson of Channel Islands National Park or CINP)

Yvonne and Carol presented several video segments of the recent Jason XIV live broadcasts including a segment on Chris Ludwig's (previously a Jason IV Argonaut) experience with the Jason Project, and a segment on abiotic measurements in Anacapa Island kelp forests. Yvonne and Carol also shared stories about inquiries they received from around the world during and following the Jason XIV program. For example, they learned that every student in a Florida science fair had elected to conduct a research project on

the Channel Islands, and they heard from one Australian mother who wanted to know if they could send more information about the islands to her son who was working on a Jason XIV school project.

In response to Craig Taylor's question regarding the source of Jason XIV funding, Yvonne stated that there is a list of over fifteen donors, including NOAA and the NMSP, that contribute to Jason each year. She added that other agencies offer in-kind services, such as CINP which provided 27 staff to this year's program. Also Yvonne noted the major investments of private industry, including Ocean Futures and Island Packers.

On a final note Yvonne acknowledged that Dr. Ballard accepted an adjunct professorship at UCSB, which is currently putting together a proposal to establish a PIN site in Santa Barbara and Ventura for future Jason projects.

### **Presentation: CINMS Marine Watch Program** (Shauna Bingham and Sean Hastings)

Shauna introduced the CINMS Marine Watch Program explaining that the concept is to achieve voluntary compliance by using volunteers to provide educational information to Sanctuary users. Volunteers will be involved in on-water interpretation of the Sanctuary, will focus on Sanctuary areas that sustain the most use, will address commercial and private boaters, will collect visitor use data, and will represent the Sanctuary at yacht clubs, dive clubs, and marinas, etc.... According to Shauna some avoidable incompatible [with the Sanctuary's primary goal of resource protection] uses of the Sanctuary include: fuel pollution, anchor scarring, sewage discharge, and seabird disturbance.

Shauna indicated that the CINMS Marine Watch Program will build on the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) Team OCEAN Program, and will include divers and boaters. Shauna provided SAC members with two handouts: one summarizing the FKNMS Team OCEAN Program, and a second presenting tools that the Ad-Hoc Enforcement Group can help CINMS work on. Shauna explained that CINMS staff are working to consolidate information for boaters to make it easier for them to understand regulations, and that they have already prepared a draft volunteer training curriculum that is now ready for review.

Bob Duncan commented on the role of the SAC Ad-Hoc Enforcement Group in CINMS Marine Watch. Bob stated that the Ad-Hoc Group has held Marine Watch committee meetings trying to bring together individuals with experience in pleasure boating at the islands. He elaborated on the Ad-Hoc Group tasks stating that they are refining the FKNMS example for CINMS, noting several differences between Florida and the Channel Islands: FKNMS has 20 vessels, the environment in the Channel Islands is more hostile, and the FKNMS Team OCEAN volunteers have uniforms. Bob also stated that CINMS must consider risk and liability issues, notify users from San Diego to San Francisco, build a visitor use database, synthesize information in a simplified format, present volunteers as educators rather than enforcers, and build off of the SET matrix to notify user groups about marine reserves. After Bob's statement staff, SAC members, and members of the public participated in a dialogue as follows.

Shauna reiterated that Sanctuary staff have spent a long time analyzing the FKNMS example and adapting it for CINMS, adding that she had provided Bob with a FKNMS training manual. Shauna emphasized that the most important work now is to determine how to implement the program and effectively target it. Bob acknowledged that the Ad-Hoc Enforcement Group met with the SET six months ago and recognizes that a lot of the groundwork is already done.

Mike Murray noted that given the work of the SET and the clean boating concept, the Marine Watch Program provides a good opportunity to look at the intersections of various Sanctuary programs.

Sean Hastings stated that now we need to figure out how to get information to the users, adding that Bob's group identified launch ramps and kiosks as effective means of providing information.

Frank Sullivan (a member of the SET) brought up an idea of holding an initial symposium at a yacht club, to be followed up with an on-water symposium or "float-in" at the Channel Islands with CINP and CINMS providing interpretive presentations.

Next, several staff and SAC members discussed that the next meeting of both the Ad-Hoc Enforcement Group and the SET is scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup>. As a result members of these two groups may consider a joint meeting.

Eric Kett asked whether it is too late to get involved, to which Bob responded that it is not.

Michael Hanrahan cited a personal experience in Florida explaining that it is important that volunteers state their objective up front to avoid users confusing them with enforcement personnel.

### **Marine Reserves Monitoring Workshop Report** (Sean Hastings and John Ugoretz)

Sean reported that there were 110 participants in the workshop (held March 14-16), with about 60 participating in biological monitoring subgroups, and about 50 participating in socioeconomic monitoring subgroups. Additionally, Sean noted that several participants formed an ad-hoc subgroup focused on monitoring non-user values. At the end of the workshop both biological and socioeconomic panelists formed a joint panel on education and outreach aspects of monitoring. According to Sean commercial fishermen were well-represented with about two per subgroup panel, while there were fewer recreational fishermen (though those present were key leaders from that constituency). Other participants included representatives of major environmental groups, along with NOAA Fisheries, the National Ocean Service, CA Department of Fish and Game, the Pacific Fishery Management Council, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Park Service, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, and university scientists from California and elsewhere. In total there 12 Bren School students, 35 agency staff, and many volunteers helped with the logistics of the workshop. Sean also acknowledged the SAC saying that SAC members provided great ideas that will help the Sanctuary move forward.

Sean noted that while it is easy to develop an ideal monitoring protocol, workshop sponsors asked the participants to be practical and realistic. Many subgroups identified both idealistic and realistic protocols, which can be useful as agency funding levels shift in the future.

Sean said that initial results of the workshop consist of about 41 pages of worksheets filled out by the subgroups with information about various aspects of monitoring such as: how often, where, and what type of monitoring to conduct, along with the costs/funding sources, and staffing requirements for that monitoring. Sean identified the next steps as: 1) sending the worksheets back to participants to determine their accuracy, fill in gaps, and address monitoring priorities (within worksheets and relative to other worksheets), 2) providing the CA Fish and Game Commission with an update in early April, 3) developing a draft monitoring plan, 4) getting comments on the draft monitoring plan from workshop participants, the CA Fish and Game Commission, and the public, and 5) initiating monitoring.

John Ugoretz added that the SAC Marine Reserves Working Group (MRWG) requested the formation of an ongoing community oversight or monitoring board to be local, small, and able to meet as needed over the long-term. John also requested recommendations for individuals to serve as members of this board.

Matt Cahn asked how soon the community oversight board would meet, to which John responded not in the immediate future, adding that other committees will be formed in the future to meet and review monitoring data annually.

Several SAC members noted that initial discussion in their groups focused on how to proceed and on rewriting worksheet questions. Sean acknowledged that it is always difficult to start with a list of goals, objectives and questions but most groups worked through the worksheets.

Harry Liquornik stated that he participated in a socioeconomic group that discussed forming fishing panels on economic impacts, and that improving basic data collection by increasing resolution to one square mile areas should be a high priority.

Mike Murray asked Harry how his colleagues felt about the workshop to which Harry replied that it covered an easy subject without debate, and that it was productive.

Dan Brumbaugh facilitated the shallow-subtidal non-fish group in which participants reached a consensus on minimum and "Cadillac" monitoring features, adding that people felt good at the end and it was a positive experience.

Eric Kett participated in the shallow-subtidal finfish group and acknowledged John Ugoretz and Satie Airame for the products they provided which he said were incredibly helpful and provided all the necessary data. Eric also acknowledged the Bren School student facilitators.

Craig Taylor participated in the education and outreach group which emphasized the importance of synthesizing and reporting to the public a clear and concise message of monitoring in terms of: how, what, where, why, and monitoring outcomes.

Michael Hanrahan participated in the socioeconomic group, the ad-hoc non-user group, and the education and outreach group. While he found it difficult to assess the benefit to people who have never been to the Sanctuary, he said that the workshop was very effective and he felt that there was a direct product at the end.

Mike Murray facilitated a recreational socioeconomic group in which he said it was obvious that the SAC efforts over the past three years really paid off since the MRWG and SAC set the stage for people to understand the background and know one another. Mike also noted that the SAC recommendation in 2002 that the Sanctuary compile all existing monitoring projects in a report, and the SAC priority ranking exercise conducted last fall, both helped to provide a starting point for the workshop.

Matt Cahn asked if there will be additional monitoring workshops in the future, or if this work will revert back to the monitoring board or committee. John Ugoretz responded that hopefully this workshop will yield a detailed plan that agencies can come back to without needing another large workshop soon. John added that there will be some specific parts of the plan that focus groups can work on in the next month or two, rather than everyone working on them together.

## **Improving SAC Operations (Eric Kett)**

Eric began the discussion stating that SAC operations may be broken down into three groups for which he then offered the following suggestions. Eric also noted that Jon Clark has questioned the meaning behind and importance of a SAC vote.

Group 1 SAC Chair and CINMS Manager: it is important to meet before each SAC meeting to discuss the agenda, to determine what kinds of action may be necessary (a vote vs. a cross section of viewpoints), and so that the SAC Chair understands the needs of the Sanctuary and Sanctuary Manager.

Group 2 CINMS staff: SAC members need to know who staff are which may be achieved by staff involving SAC members in projects as volunteers, through trips to the islands, and ride-alongs during research cruises.

Group 3 SAC members: should take advantage of activities and workshops provided by the Sanctuary, should inquire about ride-along opportunities to stay connected with the resources, and should ask their alternates to attend meetings when they cannot attend, or cannot attend a meeting in its entirety.

Michael Hanrahan suggested that Island Packers could offer free seats to SAC members.

Several SAC members and staff commented about the concern over voting indicating that the SAC votes on both administrative procedures, and on substantive issues. Roberta Cordero stated that the SAC needs a mechanism in place to identify when to take a vote and when not to take a vote, and to identify the purpose of a vote (advisory vs. administrative). Matt Cahn added that when voting the SAC needs to consider the issue at hand first and whether a vote is appropriate, or whether they can agree to vote on a particular aspect of an issue. Drew Mayerson pointed out that a vote from the last SAC meeting went to the NMSP Director, even though the vote was unannounced to the public and some constituents were not present. Drew added that the SAC should refrain from "surprise voting," should develop a mechanism to discuss votes over email if a vote is required immediately, and that SAC members should be able to ask that the vote be recorded to reflect agency abstentions etc... Matt Cahn concluded this discussion by suggesting that the matter of advisory voting be continued at the May SAC meeting.

Next, several SAC members and staff discussed the issue of public and SAC member participation in meetings, which Michael Hanrahan pointed out had been included in past updates on improving SAC operations. Mike Murray noted that attendance is higher when there are important decisions on the agenda, or when the Director of the NMSP is present. Bob Duncan reflected that private sector people tend to be the ones who remain at meetings and participate in retreats. Jon Clark had suggested providing education and entertainment opportunities in the afternoon, and conducting business during the morning of SAC meetings. Eric Kett added that starting meetings early in the morning prevents people from stopping in at their offices and getting involved in "fires," though Dan Brumbaugh reminded SAC members to consider commute times. Nancy Berenson suggested an annual review or evaluation of SAC member similar to the performance measures developed in the management plan. Similarly, Eric Kett reiterated the idea from the SAC retreat that SAC members be provided with their applications and written commitments as a means of performance evaluation, and suggested excluding perks from SAC members who do not participate. Sean Hastings suggested involving SAC members in staff work.

## **Channel Islands Argonauts** (Julie Bursek)

Julie stated that the idea behind the local Channel Islands Argonauts program was to get the community involved in Jason XIV: From Shore to Sea. Applicants were required to write about the meaning of "From Shore to Sea." 50 students applied for the program and 20 were selected. Julie explained that selected students participated in Jason XIV events such as visiting Anacapa Island, going behind the scenes of live broadcasts from the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (SBMM), and producing posters displayed at community events. Julie presented three of the Channel Islands Argonauts to the SAC and SAC members then asked them questions.

Julie introduced Courtney as a CINMS-sponsored applicant for the National Argonaut Program. Courtney's favorite aspects of the Channel Islands Argonaut program were going to Anacapa Island and behind the scenes at the SBMM, meeting Bob Ballard, and meeting other students from Santa Barbara County who are interested in science. Courtney's poster focused on giant kelp.

Nick introduced himself as a fifth-grader from Pierpont Elementary who enjoyed looking at the animals at Anacapa Island and Bob Ballard's lecture. His poster addressed the affects of El Nino on San Miguel Island pinnipeds.

Jeannette introduced herself as a fifth-grader from Mara Vista Elementary who liked researching many things she did not know about, as well as seeing many animals at Anacapa Island. Her poster focused on kelp forests and the animals that rely on them.

In response to Michael Hanrahan's question about how El Nino affects pinnipeds, Nick stated that it affects the babies, not the adults, since the adults can travel to the Farallon Islands to find their food source in colder waters while the babies cannot and die of starvation.

In answer to Monica Baker's question about what the students would like to be Courtney replied that she hopes to become a marine biologist, while Nick wants to be a scientist who turns people into animals.

Matt Cahn asked what advice he should give to his seven-year-old for getting involved in Jason. Courtney suggested that he find out as much about the ocean as possible. Nick offered that he should learn on his own, that Matt should teach him about what he likes to learn about, let him make his own mistakes over and over, and take him to the Channel Islands.

Craig Taylor asked how the argonauts will continue to be involved in the ocean. Nick plans to go to the Catalina Island Marine Institute to learn about plankton and oceanography this summer, while Courtney is learning from other people like Julie Bursek and Carol Peterson.

Drew Mayerson asked whether argonauts need to reapply to participate in future years. Julie responded that this issue still needs to be addressed, though the program should be made available to more students, and she welcomed suggestions from the SAC.

Roberta Cordero asked whether the argonauts had been to the islands before participating in Jason. Courtney and Nick had both been previously while Jeanette had not.

## **Future SAC Meeting Schedule and Agenda Topics**

Mike Murray summarized future agenda topics as follows:

- Agency representatives report on enforcing State marine reserves
- Conservation Working Group report on recent meeting
- Clean boating: learn about availability of local products and services, identify gaps, invite local harbors
- Federal marine reserves process report to facilitate discussion on SAC role
- Discussion of SAC voting protocols
- Chris Mobley discussion of SAC structure and seat representation
- A Federal marine reserve public scoping session is to be held following the meeting
- The next island retreat

Matt Cahn noted that each agenda item now reflects the annual SAC work plan goal it relates to.

**The Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm.**

*Meeting notes respectfully submitted by:*

*Sarah MacWilliams  
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
sarah.macwilliams@noaa.gov*